

January 3, 1961

Mr. Jerry A. Schur
45 Barnes Street
Long Beach, New York

Dear Jerry:

Esther and I have, of course, admired B. O. Dodge since way back, and were glad to have your remembrance from him. If the rest of us could do half so well starting at the age of 40, we could have reason to be proud of ourselves.

I was very happy to return the reference form for your NSF fellowship and I hope this can be of some help to you.

I would not have included the following remarks on you if I did not have to comment on the question in reply to question 2 but looking at your intended program for the next three summers, I could not help but wonder whether they are the best calculated to accomplish what you are seeking, "updating my knowledge of science." I am speaking with my prejudices now but would be inclined to doubt that hematology and microtechnique or the physiology of the endocrine glands are really so much in the forefront of the contemporary biological scene. Perhaps I am overlooking some of your special interests and possibly what other background you have already accumulated but I would urge you to try to consider a somewhat different program, perhaps along the following lines: (1) biochemistry to start with (2) microbiology, developmental physiology, cell physiology and genetics, and then research. There may be some constraints I don't know about here and of course, if you are bound to do this work in the summer, it would also make matters more difficult. New York University may be able to deal with some of these topics well enough but the overall program at Columbia, though still not very good, strikes me as considerably better. What I don't know is how well adapted the various programs are to specific need like your own. Are you constrained to do this on the basis of summer fellowships? If there is NSF fellowship support for it, and perhaps there is, I would think you would do very much better to spend a full year at it at a place like Berkeley and I think you would enjoy it too. Anyhow, the very best of luck.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Enc. 81